



Health & Rehabilitation Center

February 5, 2015

*Written testimony of Ann Rogers, Administrator, Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center
Concerning*

***Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

***Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.** **<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>**

***Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.** **<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>**

Good evening Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Ann Rogers. I am the Administrator at Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center in New Milford, Connecticut. Candlewood Valley Health & Rehabilitation Center is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the communities of New Milford, Brookfield, Bridgewater, Danbury, Sharon, and Sherman, to name a few. The Candlewood facility has 148 beds, 217 employees, is the recipient of the 2012 American Health Care Association Silver National Quality Award, and is rated as a Five Star facility.

First I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills recognize that just can't work over time and provide for increasing rates, by an annual cost of living adjustment or through a formula that increases rates based on the nursing facilities costs.

The message from the operator's point of view is simple---Our nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- Escalating utility rates (electric, gas)
- Escalating supply costs (food, linens, medical supplies)
- Implementation and associated costs of the Affordable Care Act
- Increased acuity of patients and the costs associated with that level of care

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You may contact me at 860-355-0971.

Sincerely,



Ann Rogers

Administrator



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